

Town of Camden  
Public Workshop  
Camden Municipal Building  
May 23, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor King called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and noticed that this Public Workshop was being held in compliance with the Delaware Open Public Meeting Act by posting the agenda on May 14, 2016, in the following manner:

- a. The electronic sign,
- b. The Official Bulletin Board,
- c. The official Town of Camden Web Site,
- d. The News Journal, and
- e. The Delaware State News.

Vice-Mayor Green led attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor King led a moment of silence.

Council Attending: Mayor King, Vice-Mayor Green, Councilman Dougherty, and Councilman Casquarelli.

Absent: Councilwoman Torres

Staff Attending: Town Manager Aaron Chaffinch, Account Specialist Amanda Marlow, and Chief Financial Officer Tom Josiah.

**AMENDMENTS**

None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Town Hall will be closed Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup> in observance of Memorial Day.

**REVIEW/DISCUSSION**

*Proposed FY 2017 Budget*

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to come out of regular session and enter into public hearing. All in favor; none opposed. Councilwoman Torres; absent.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to come out of public hearing and go back into regular session for Mr. Josiah to discuss the budget before hearing public comment. All in favor; none opposed. Councilwoman Torres; absent.

Mr. Josiah discussed the changes made from the last Council meeting which included:

- Increase in Building Permit Revenue
- Decrease in Healthcare expense
- Increase in Police Pension Revenue

Mr. Josiah stated the Town can use FY17 as a test run year for the code enforcement issue that was discussed at the last council meeting. He said the budget is now balanced but we need to look for additional revenues in the next 2-3 years.

Vice-Mayor Green applauded the effort of preparing the budget. He asked if the \$42,000 in building permit was a good number?

Mr. Josiah stated it is a good number.

Amanda Marlow stated the \$42,000 is well below average from the past 2-3 years revenues the Town has received.

Vice-Mayor Green said he appreciated the caution words at the last meeting and it is good to look at the averages over the past 2-3 years. He asked Mr. Josiah if he can begin projecting FY18 budget around January 2017.

Vice-Mayor Green asked if all the expenses for the police and vehicles were recurring or if some can be taken from the RETT fund?

Mr. Josiah stated they are all recurring.

Mayor King asked why the fine and court revenue line was low compared to what we budgeted. He asked if we needed to speak with Chief Bryson in regards to that number.

Amanda Marlow stated she would speak to Chief Bryson in regards to that number because we still might be waiting on a couple months of payment from the State.

Councilman Dougherty asked if there was any update on the Town taking over Route 13 to patrol?

Mr. Chaffinch explained it was a Del-Dot issue and that's what is holding it up.

Mayor King stated we needed to get Chief involved and there is a new secretary and she is very helpful.

Vice-Mayor Green asked if we received the blessing from State Police to take over Route 13?

Mr. Chaffinch said no because of the annexation issue of the meets and bounds.

Vice-Mayor Green said he thought the police gave us a letter.

Mr. Chaffinch stated yes, but that was years ago.

Councilman Dougherty asked if the proposed tax discount is worked into the budget?

Mr. Josiah said yes.

Councilman Casquarelli asked about the Admin Utilities-Office and Heat, bank service fee's, and cell phone expense line.

Amanda Marlow stated the Admin Utilities-Office and Heat and the Cell Phone expense was allocated to different expense lines that way the Town can track the total expense for the police department, public works, and town hall. She also stated the bank service fees are credited one month and debited the next month due to WSFS policy.

Mr. Josiah reminded Council to keep thinking 2 years ahead in regards to the budget.

Vice-Mayor Green asked if Mr. Josiah could make a projection to Council for the next two year budgets as well as how much revenue has increased over the past 2-3 years.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Casquarelli, to come out of regular session and enter into public hearing. All in favor; none opposed. Councilwoman Torres; absent.

Jessi Garcia from 268 Cambridge Road stated at the last meeting a surcharge was discussed in regards to credit card payments. He suggested that the residents receiving the early bird discount should only be able to pay by cash, check, or money order and therefor no surcharge is being paid by the Town.

Mayor King stated he believes that is taking away the ability for some residents to pay.

Vice-Mayor Green asked if more people pay on time because we allow them to use credit cards?

Amanda Marlow stated she was not sure.

Mayor King said we offer an early bird discount to receive prompt payment and he believes by adding on a surcharge would have a negative effect on this.

Councilman Casquarelli stated some entities are not even taking check now and the customers have to pay a fee for paying by cash.

Mr. Garcia suggested we collect additional revenue from the trash.

Vice-Mayor Green stated the Town is not allowed to make a lot of revenue off of trash.

Councilman Dougherty said the increase in trash is built into their tax bill and people are going to think the Town increased taxes.

Mr. Garcia asked the reason Town of Camden and Town of Wyoming are not united? He suggested this would be a financial savings to the residents of both Towns.

Mayor King stated it dates back a long time ago and there was a disagreement at a Town Hall meeting and Wyoming started their Town.

Mr. Garcia asked why Wyoming offers a full exemption of taxes if a resident is disabled and also if the resident is over 65.

Mayor King stated he was not sure about that and it may benefit Wyoming more than it does Camden.

Mr. Garcia said yes, it would be a win, win for everyone.

Mr. Garcia suggested increase the rental license fee.

Amanda Marlow stated the Town wouldn't be able to justify an increase right now because no rental inspection is done.

Councilman Casquarelli said the Town can charge a re-inspection fee.

Mayor King stated the Town is not able to raise fees just arbitrarily.

Councilman Casquarelli said there is a broad spectrum of people representing the Town and its different demographics in Camden.

Councilman Dougherty explained that our fees are already high and one contractor said he is not coming to Camden to build homes because of the fees.

Mayor King thanked Mr. Garcia for all his concerns, comments, and suggestions. He explained the Town has a pretty successful team and Council. This Town is very different than a lot of other cities in larger states.

Motion made by Councilman Casquarelli, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to come out of public hearing and enter back into regular session. All in favor; none opposed. Councilwoman Torres; absent.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENT**

Vice-Mayor Green thanked staff for preparing the balanced budget.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion made at 7:48pm by Vice-Mayor Green, seconded by Councilman Dougherty, to adjourn the public workshop. All in favor; none opposed. Councilwoman Torres; absent.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Marlow, Account Specialist*